

*Routine Proceedings*

Recommendation No. 5 is that the House of Commons should equip two committee rooms. We felt this is very important. We have seen the televising of committees on an increasingly *ad hoc* basis with wires strung all over the place. They sometimes interfere with the proceedings of the committee. We would recommend to the House that two committee rooms be set up and wired and that this be done at an appropriate time in appropriate rooms so that the television cameras would be very discreet. Committee chairmen could then opt to go into those rooms. For instance, the Charest committee could be assigned to that room, or the finance committee when it is doing something important as it did with the GST hearings.

The first recommendation of the committee is that the Canadian Parliamentary Channel proposal as presented by CBC and the Canadian cable television industry should be accepted and endorsed as proposed, provided that four members of the board of directors are appointed to represent the public interest.

By concurring in this report, we are sending a signal to the CRTC that we agree with this proposal and we want the CRTC to accept it, but we want to have some control over it. We want to have some input. We believe that it is important to appoint four people who are not a part of the CBC or the cable industry to represent the public interest, four notable Canadians who would be noble in thought and with ideals about what we wanted to achieve with the channel. This channel could be a great instrument of Canadian unity. It could show public policy debates across the country and open up the process to Canadians of what is going on in Quebec, Newfoundland, and elsewhere.

I should remind the House that the Canadian CPaC would be a non-profit organization and that the people who would control CPaC, the board of directors, the consortium, has said that if revenues from the channel exceed what they spend, they would delay further increases as inflation came, or this money would be used to enhance the service. It is important that it is a non-profit organization.

In summary, I believe that we in this House should be concurring with this report. It is a simple report. It is not asking us to do anything radical, but to open up the process a little bit to allow committees to make their own recommendations, to use the facilities that we presently

have in place such as the channel and the satellite air time, which is dead air, to broadcast news conferences, special committees, committees of the House or conventions, whether they are political conventions or an important address at the Canadian Medical Association convention.

I urge members of the House of Commons to give consideration to this report and bless it with their concurrence.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** On question or comments, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, a question was put to me that I did not finish answering. I know the hon. member for Edmonton—Strathcona is a very capable member of this committee and perhaps he could explain.

The hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam asked the question as to how the committee recommended it would be decided which committees would be televised when there are so many sitting. I got part way through the explanation. I had not dealt with the committees that were not in the four rooms. I wonder if the hon. member could have specific comments on that part of the question to complete that part of the answer because I know he is as familiar with it as I am.

**Mr. Thorkelson:** This is a very important question and I thank the member for it.

Under this proposal there would be two or perhaps four committee rooms equipped with television cameras. Committees could book themselves into these rooms and the liaison committee or the chairs of committees would make the decision as to when the committees would go on the air or if they would be repeated.

CPaC has also stated that it would have three or four camera crews so as many as eight committees could be taped at one time. They could all be televised, subject to the discretion of the liaison committee or the chairs of all the committees. Let us say that on a Wednesday there are 15 committees and eight, seven, or six are of great importance and should be on television. Four of them would be booked into committee rooms with recording capability and CPaC would bring in portable television crews to the other two or three. Then the chairs liaison committee would work with the production director and decide which committees go where.